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BREASTFEEDING GARMENT

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(57)

A breastfeeding garment is disclosed. The garment has a front which is comprised of two pieces, a front section (1,31 and 32) and an overlay (21,41 and 42). The front section (1,31 and 32) has two openings (2 and 3) through which the breasts protrude. The overlay (21,41 and 42) is sewn onto the front section (1,31 and 32) at the top edges (4,5,6,35 and 36), armholes (22,23, 43 and 44), for a portion of the side seams (24,25,45 and 46) and the centre fronts (30), on front opening garments. The overlay (21,41 and 42) completely covers the two openings (2 and 3) and becomes an integral part of the garment. The overlay (21,41 and 42) may be fastened at the side fronts. To breastfeed the mother simply undoes the fastening and places the baby under the overlay (21,41 and 42) to feed at the breast which is protruding through the two openings (2 and 3); the overlay (21,41 and 42) provides enough room for the baby to be partially covered and screened from possible distraction as well as completely covering the mother's breasts providing her with privacy.

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Patents Act 1990

ORIGINAL
COMPLETE SPECIFICATION
STANDARD PATENT

Invention Title: BREASTFEEDING GARMENTS

The following statement is a full description of this invention, including the best method of performing it known to me:-

BREASTFEEDING GARMENTS

This invention relates to improvements in garments for breastfeeding

For many breastfeeding women the lack of easy accessibility and privacy whilst breastfeeding causes discomfort which can result in frustration embarrassment and poor feeding for the baby.

Garments which are part of the womans usual wardrobe are often worn whilst breastfeeding. This is not always satisfactory, as there is difficulty in being able to access the breasts for feeding in a manner which is easy, comfortable and discreet.

Ordinary garments are not well adapted for breastfeeding; the woman has to either undo her front opening garment, which exposes the breast/s; this can be embarrassing for the woman and other persons, indeed there are some establishments who discriminate against breastfeeding by allocating certain places where you

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may breastfeed; or she can pull up her top which can be awkward and irritating. There is also the risk, that for some women; the frustration and embarrassment can lead to poor feeding for the baby.

- 5 The object of the present invention is to provide breastfeeding garments which will avoid these disadvantages.

There have been other proposals for breastfeeding garments but these do not adequately provide for the privacy of the mother and baby as well as the ease of access for feeding. For example
10 one previous garment proposes a horizontal slit opening located directly below the breasts and fastened across the front using buttons and buttonholes. These proposals have the disadvantages that the breast is exposed whilst feeding as the top section provides no cover for the breast or the baby which leaves the
15 baby subject to distraction; the baby also needs to be held in a high position during feeding which can be uncomfortable and making the undoing of the buttons time consuming and fiddly.

These problems are overcome by the present invention which provides a breastfeeding garment comprising of a Front section
20 which allows the breasts to protrude through two openings in the top, the top of the Front section is then completely covered with an overlay. The overlay attaches to become an integral part of the garment, whilst allowing for easy access to the breast for feeding and providing privacy for the mother and
25 baby. The overlay is sewn in at the top edge of the Front section, the armholes, the side seam in part and centre fronts, in front opening garments; it extends down to finish below the bottom of the openings.

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In one form of the invention the overlay will have pleating or gathering along each top edge, this feature adds extra room which makes feeding accessible and allows for cover for the baby.

- 5 In one form of the invention the Front and Overlay will each comprise two pieces, this is to allow for garment designs with front openings, such as a shirt.

In one form of the invention the two openings in the Front are of a keyhole configuration in that the openings start and end
10 at the top edge of the Front section and extend down below the breast, giving ample room around the breast to enable complete protrusion.

In another form of the invention the openings are circular, they go around the breast to allow protrusion.

- 15 The side front fasteners may consist of any suitable device such as button/buttonholes, studs or velcro.

In the drawings:

FIG.1 shows one example of the Front Section for a breastfeeding garment according to this invention.

- 20 FIG.2 shows one example of an overlay in position for a breastfeeding garment according to this invention.

FIG.3 shows another example of the Front Section for another design of a breastfeeding garment according to this invention.

- FIG. 4 shows the Overlays in position on the breastfeeding
25 garment of Fig. 3 according to this invention.

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FIG. 5 shows how the breastfeeding garment according to this invention is used by the woman whilst breastfeeding.

Referring to Fig. 1, the Front Section is shown with the two openings 2 and 3 in the keyhole configuration which begin and end at the top edges 4,5 and 6 and extends down below the breast and around it to leave ample room for the breasts to protrude.

Referring to Fig. 2 it is now shown how the overlay 21 is placed over the Front Section 1 as in Fig.1 and sewn down at the points: top edges 4,5 and 6 of Fig 1, armholes 22 and 23 and the side seams 24 and 25. The openings 2 and 3 of Fig.1 in the Front section 1 of Fig.1, are shown here in 'ghost' to give their approximate location underneath the overlay 21. The overlay 21 is fastened to the Front Section 1 of Fig. 1 at points 26 and 27.

Referring to Fig.3 the Front Section 1 of Fig.1 has now been divided vertically into two sections: Right side 32 and Left side 31 to accommodate a design for a Front opening garment. The front openings 33 and 34 are in the keyhole configuration beginning at the top edges 35 and 36 and extending down below and around the breast leaving ample room for the breast to protrude and ends back and ends back at the top edges 35 and 36. The two front sections:right 32 and left 31 are sewn into the front band 39 of the garment.

Referring to Fig. 4 it is now shown how the two overlay sections 41 and 42 are placed over the two front sections 31 and 32 of Fig. 3 to cover the openings 33 and 34 of Fig.3.The two overlay sections 41 and 42 are sewn to the front sections 31 and 32 of Fig. 3 at the points: top edge 35 and 36 of fig.3,armholes 43 and 44.and side seams 4 and 4

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The two openings 35 and 36 of fig. 2 are shown here in 'ghost' to indicate their approx. position under the two overlay sections 41 and 42.

Referring to Fig. 5 shows one example of a breastfeeding garment as it would be used according to this invention. The woman has undone the fastening 52 and has placed the baby under the left side overlay 51 allowing the baby to feed at the breast which is protruding through the front section and covered by the overlay 51.

By the use of breastfeeding garments of these types the mother is able to feed with discretion and ease because the garment provides ready access to the breast for feeding and cover for the breasts and the baby ensuring their privacy and making feeding a more satisfactory experience.

It will be realised that the breastfeeding garment according to this invention is not restricted to the designs shown in the examples, but may be applied to a variety of other suitable garment designs as long as the principles of the invention are not affected.

The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. A breastfeeding garment comprising of a front section with two openings through which the breasts protrude and an attached overlay, which becomes an integral part of the garment by completely covering the top front section and extending down to finish between the bottom of the two openings and the waistline and fastened at each side front.
2. The breastfeeding garment of claim 1 wherein the two openings begin and end at the top edge forming a 'keyhole' configuration.
3. The breastfeeding garment of claim 1 wherein the two openings are circular.
4. The breastfeeding garment of claims 1-3 wherein the front section and overlay are each in two pieces, a left and right side to suit a front opening garment.
5. The breastfeeding garment of claims 1-3 wherein the front section and overlay are each one piece.
6. The breastfeeding garment of claims 1-5 wherein the overlay is sewn to the front section so as to become an integral part of the garment.
7. The breastfeeding garment of claims 1-6 wherein the side front fasteners are a button and buttonhole.
8. The breastfeeding garment of claims 1-6 wherein the side front fasteners are velcro.
9. The breastfeeding garment of claims 1-6 wherein the side front fasteners are studs.
10. The breastfeeding garment of claims 1-6 wherein the fasteners can be zippers.
11. The breastfeeding garment of claims 1-6 wherein the fasteners are not restricted to the side front but can be placed at any of one or more points along the bottom edge of the

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overlay with a corresponding fastening on the front section.

12. The breastfeeding garment substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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3 August 1993

ABSTRACT

A breastfeeding garment is disclosed. The garment has a front which is comprised of two pieces, a front section (1,31 and 32) and an overlay (21,41 and 42). The front section (1,31 and 32) has two openings (2 and 3) through which the breasts protrude. The overlay (21,41 and 42) is sewn onto the front section (1,31 and 32) at the top edges (4,5,6,35 and 36), armholes (22,23, 43 and 44), for a portion of the side seams (24,25,45 and 46) and the centre fronts (30), on front opening garments. The overlay (21,41 and 42) completely covers the two openings (2 and 3) and becomes an integral part of the garment. The overlay (21,41 and 42) may be fastened at the side fronts. To breastfeed the mother simply undoes the fastening and places the baby under the overlay (21,41 and 42) to feed at the breast which is protruding through the two openings (2 and 3); the overlay (21,41 and 42) provides enough room for the baby to be partially covered and screened from possible distraction as well as completely covering the mother's breasts providing her with privacy.

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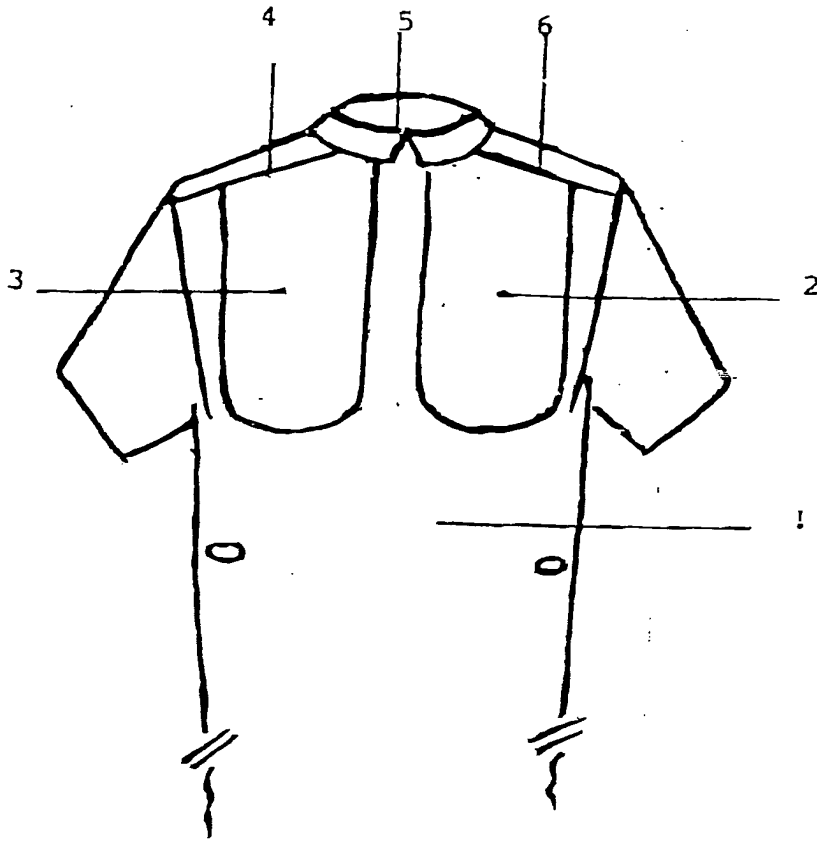


FIG. 1

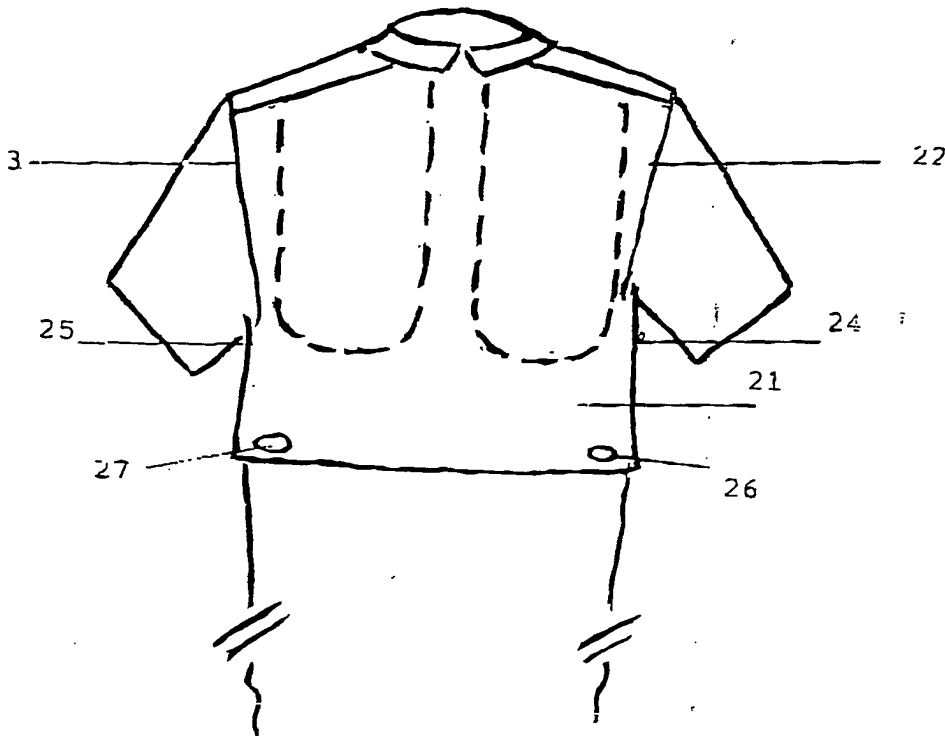


FIG. 2

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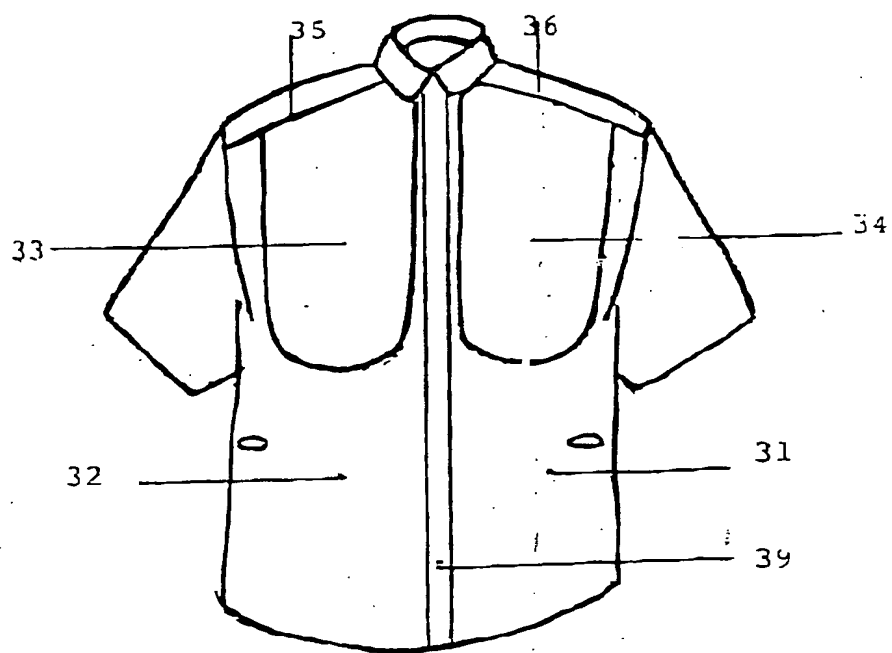


FIG. 3

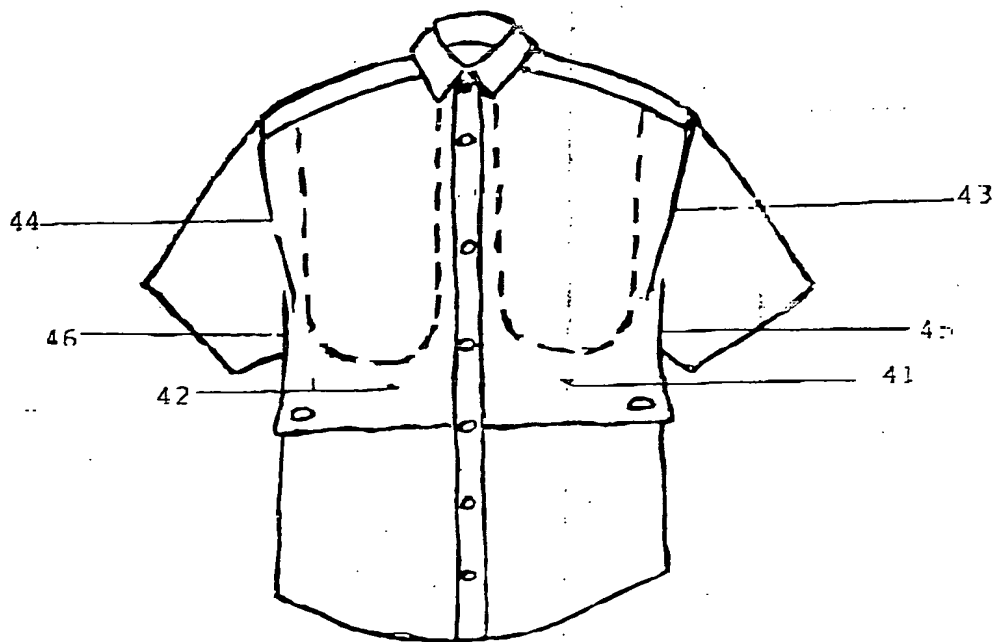


FIG. 4

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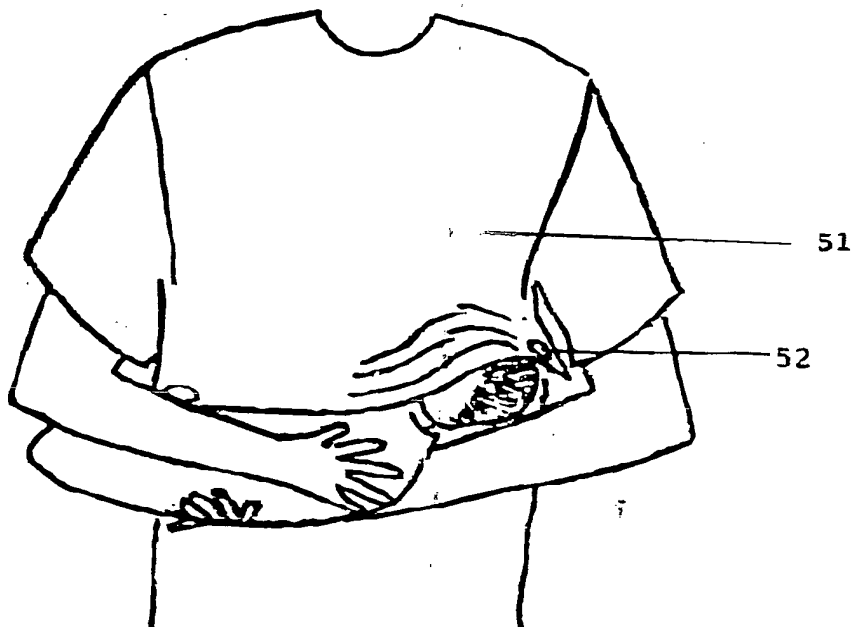


FIG. 5

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